

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 11638 201240Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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P R 201225Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8947

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ROME COMMUNAL COUNCIL DEADLOCKED

REF: ROME 10278

1. THE 80 MEMBERS OF ROME'S COMMUNAL COUNCIL MET IN A BRIEF INAUGURAL SESSION JULY 19 TO BEGIN WHAT IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS TO ELECT A NEW MAYOR. ALTHOUGH THE DC GAINED THREE SEATS IN THE JUNE 20 ELECTIONS (FROM 24 TO 27), LOSSES AMONG THE PARTY'S FORMER COALITION PARTNERS RENDER IMPOSSIBLE CONTINUATION OF THE SAME CENTER-LEFT COMBINATION (DC-PSI-PSDI-PRI). THIS GROUPING NOW COMMANDS ONLY 37 SEATS. FOUR SHORT OF THE NECESSARY MAJORITY OF FORTY-ONE. HOWEVER, AN EXCLUSIVELY LEFT COALITION (PCI-PSI-RAD-DP) ALSO FALLS SHORT OF A MAJORITY WITH 38 SEATS.

2. FIVE SESSIONS OF DEBATE HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED DURING THE JULY 22-30 PERIOD, BUT IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE STALE-MATE WILL NOT BE BROKEN UNTIL AFTER A GOVERNMENTAL SOLUTION IS ARRIVED AT ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL. NUMEROUS COMBINATIONS ARE BEING DISCUSSED RANGING FROM AN "ASSEMBLY" COUNCIL GOVERNMENT (CONSIDERED UNLIKELY) COMPOSED OF THE PCI, DC, PSI, PSDI, AND PRI (69 VOTES)

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PAGE 02 ROME 11638 201240Z

TO A 41-MEMBER LEFT PLUS PSDI JUNTA (PCI-PSI-PSDI-RAD-DP) WITH

THE DC IN OPPOSITION.

3. FOR THE PRESENT, THE DC CONTINUES TO STRESS (IN A
SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL IN IL POPOLO'S JULY 20 EDITION)
THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT SACRIFICING ITS "POLITICAL
PLATFORM" FOR THE EXPEDIENCY OF OBTAINING OPPOSITION
CONSENT FOR AN "OPERATIVE PROGRAM." IN THIS CONNECTION,
TODAY'S PRESS COMMENTS THAT ZACCAGNINI INTERVENED WITH
THE DC GROUP OF THE COUNCIL TO BLOCK ANY ACCORD WITH THE
PCI FOR A COMMUNAL JUNTA.VOLPE

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